

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 14, 2001

Contact: Kevin O'Connell
202-225-6335

HINCHEY ANNOUNCES HISTORIC RESTORATION FUNDS FOR UPAC AND KINGSTON CITY HALL

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that a federal grant of \$250,000 has been awarded to the Ulster Performing Arts Center and \$49,000 has been awarded to Kingston's City Hall. The grants are to be used for historic restoration of the two Broadway buildings.

"I'm glad that we found a good use for these funds," said Hinchey. "UPAC's Broadway Theatre and City Hall are two of the most visible historic buildings in Kingston. They're also in an area of the city that the mayor and others are working hard to revitalize. These federal dollars will help greatly in this effort while allowing the buildings to maintain their historic authenticity."

UPAC has been awarded \$250,000 to continue renovations to the inner theatre, including the replacement of carpeting, restorative painting, and repairs to seats and chandeliers. The City of Kingston will receive \$49,000 to install historic lighting, including street lamps and interior sconces. Both grants have been approved by the Save America's Treasures program, a public-private partnership between the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

As a member of the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey had originally requested these funds in the fiscal year 2001 Interior Appropriations Bill to be used for restoration work being done at the Old Dutch Church on Wall Street.

Subsequently, the U.S. Justice Department ruled that such a grant would violate the separation of church and state principle by granting federal funds to an active church. Hinchey fought the ruling, arguing that the money would not be used for religious purposes, but to help maintain a building with tremendous historic significance. When the Justice Department refused to alter its ruling, Hinchey worked with the National Park Service to transfer the funding to restoration projects at UPAC and City Hall.

-30-

Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey
U.S. House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Contact: Kevin O'Connell
Phone: 202-225-6335
E-mail: kevin.o'connell@mail.house.gov
Pager: 800-759-8888 PIN: 1386458